

REMARKS

Oath/Declaration

Regarding the Examiner's objection to the Oath and Declaration, a search of the USPTO's Image File Wrapper shows that a Supplemental Declaration was received by the USPTO on Jan. 20, 2006. A copy of the Supplemental Declaration as filed and entered is attached.

The Examiner objected on the grounds that the Declaration does not identify the citizenship of the inventor or contain a signature for each inventor. It is respectfully submitted that the sole inventor's signature appears on the second page of the Supplemental Declaration and that the Canadian citizenship of the inventor was also specified on the second page of the Supplemental Declaration following the signature of the sole inventor.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Supplemental Declaration submitted on Jan. 20, 2006 complies with the provisions of the rules. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Fee Calculations

On July 12, 2006, a further review of the response to the first Office Action, filed on Jan. 20, 2006, uncovered a clerical error in the number of independent claims. Amendments to the claims made in the Jan. 20, 2006 response increased the total number of independent claims to 4.

As a result the additional independent claim in excess of three fee has inadvertently not been paid, nor has the USPTO charged the extra fee. The extra fee is included on the enclosed Fee Transmittal sheet.

Allowed/Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes Examiner's allowance of claims 14, 15, 17 and 18, and the conditional allowance of claims 5 to 9, 11, and 13.

Claim Amendments

In view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, the claims have been rewritten as indicated above.

Specifically, independent claims 1, 3, and 27 have been rewritten to include a feature as recited in claim 5, and claim 5 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 6 to 8, 11 and 13 have been rewritten in independent form. A number of antecedents introduced by the rewriting the claims have been corrected; the inclusion of the feature of claim 5 into claim 1 has necessitated amendment of claim 10.

It is submitted that in view of the amendments, there is no longer a basis for the Examiner's anticipation and obviousness rejections, and claims 1 to 4, 6 to 15, 17, 18, and 27 as presented are patentable and in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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